

KRAB KRONICLE

506th Aerospace Expeditionary Group

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMEN SUSTAINING GLOBAL REACH MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE
AND SUPPORT TO STABILIZE A NATION SO FREEDOM CAN FLOURISH



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Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

May 25, 2003

Incoming ... Mail

By Airman 1st Class
Shawn Franklin
Contributing writer

Got mail? Yes we do! Thanks to the partnership of the Army's 38th Postal and the Air Force's 37th and 52nd Communications Squadrons.

Headed by postmaster Sgt. 1st Class Leida Anderson, the 506th Air Expeditionary Group's Post Office was established in Bashur, Iraq, April 4 and relocated to Kirkuk.

The team of postal workers not only support the Kirkuk community, but Irbil, Mosul and Azsul, supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 4th Infantry Division.

Most everyone looks forward to getting care packages and letters from loved ones back at home.

The good news is those packages are being received from the states, via Frankfurt, Germany,

in 7 to 14 days, which is quicker than any other base located in Iraq. In addition they receive MPS, which is APO to APO, mail in 3 to 7 days.

Unit representatives can pick up mail for their troops each morning. Stars and Stripes newspapers are also delivered to the post office daily.

The post office, operating in the dark right now because the building has no power, is located next to the base theater but will relocate to Tent City in coming weeks.

The team hopes to make only minor adjustments to an already fully operational post office.

Location: Gym complex, next to theater

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Rules: No war trophies or souvenirs.

-Packages must be sealed at the post office.

-Restrictions posted in post office.



Photo by Capt. Jill Whitesell

Power up

Senior Airman George Spreng directs Airman 1st Class Chadd Winterburg as he uses the 10K All Terrain forklift to download the first of nine MEP 12 generators which will power Tent City here. Both airmen are assigned to the 506th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Air Terminal Operations Center.



Photo by Capt. Jill Whitesell

Big bang theory

Tech. Sgt. Michael Land (left) and Staff Sgt. Neil Jones place C-4 on rocket propelled grenades in preparation for detonation May 21. Land and Jones are assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal team. EOD personnel recovered the munitions from various locations downtown.

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Editorial Staff

Col. Jim Callahan
Commander

Lt. Col. Tracey Walker
Vice Commander

Capt. Jill Whitesell
Chief of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer
NCOIC of Public Affairs

As real as it gets

By Capt. Jill Whitesell
506th AEG Public Affairs officer

The 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander held his first commander's call Wednesday at the theater since the population of U.S. Air Force personnel topped 900.

The mandatory call opened with a 10-minute video of A-10 footage, some of which was only 60 hours old. Throughout his briefing, Col. Jim Callahan continued to emphasize one key message -- we are still engaged in combat operations.

"The threat is still very real. It is not largely organized, the numbers are not astounding, but it is still real. I need you to be vigilant, be weary and be on your game," Callahan said.

The boss expressed his concern



Col. Jim Callahan speaks at the commanders call.

for everyone's safety by sharing the story of the U.S. soldier who was shot in the back just two night prior. Fortunately the soldier's condition is good, but Callahan said this was because of one thing - our protective gear - and hence reemphasized the need for the gear.

See COMMANDER Page 3

Inside the wire

News briefs

AAFES

The AAFES road show will be here Thursday, Friday and Saturday with truckloads of goods to sell.

Right Start

The Right Start briefings are held every Tuesday and Thursday at noon at the courtyard.

Running

Running is strictly prohibited on perimeter road. A route is currently being drawn up.

Contracting

The contracting office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is located left of Gate 1.

CE hours

CE's customer service hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. They are located in the north wing of the courtyard building, last door on the right. Go through your designated facility managers and have them submit job order requests to the customer service office.

Finance hours

Finance office hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. They are located with contracting in the building by Gate 1. Currently, check-cashing limit is \$200 per week. They can also assist with

accrual travel vouchers, Savings Deposit Program, and allotment changes. On paydays, they can provide members their pay amounts, however, they do not provide LESSs.

Protocol

Anyone sponsoring a distinguished visitor onto Kirkuk Air Base must contact Lt. Mel Turner at melvin.turner@krab.aor-centaf.af.mil or call 460-0099 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Laundry

The 24-hour drop-off and pick-up point for laundry is at the lodging desk in the ATOC hangar. Laundry must be in a bag and will be returned in about four days.

Sky Soldier Theater

Movies are shown at the Sky Soldier Theater, located next to the post office, twice daily at 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Insect repellent is highly recommended.

Barber Service

"No Frills" barber services are available at the Sky Soldier's Theater from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. Closed Friday.

Dining Facility

The Army dining facility is open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is open to all Air Force personnel.

COMMANDER

"There is one thing in common about the soldiers who have taken enemy fire ... and it's that they were protected.

"This is not an exercise, not a Red Flag or an (operational readiness inspection), you are in the thick of it," said the commander.

Callahan said he has made a promise to everyone's family to bring their son, daughter, husband or wife home safely.

"I have never met your mom and/or dad, never spoke to them in my life, but the moment you landed on my compound I made a promise to them. That promise is that I will do everything in my power to bring you home in the same condition you arrived in."

Callahan, who has been the group commander since April 23, said although that is his responsibility, each of us has a responsibility as well, and that he said, "is to do what I say."

Callahan said although it's very easy to do your own thing here, he relies on each member of the 506th team to do his or her part and do the right

thing at all times.

Addressing another subject, Callahan discussed the relationship between the Army and Air Force personnel and clearly expressed what he expects.

"The soldiers we share this installation with are the ones who slugged it



down for us. You are to treat them with respect. Over the past 60

hours the 173rd has been engaged in actual combat ... and that's why it's been so quiet behind the wire. We have them to thank."

Wrapping up his comments, the commander reminded 506th personnel that what they are doing is worthy work and they are making history every day.

"I know there is a tendency to think each day is Groundhog Day, but I assure you, it's not. We make progress every day. And if you look around, you will see that we have made remarkable progress in just a month's time.

"We will continue to perform our missions here and will continue to make this place better ... we'll do it because that's our job."

Keep your cool when it heats up

By Chief Master Sgt.
Randy Jones
506th AEG command
chief

As we close another week at Kirkuk we see more construction out at the place with no name, so if you have not put in your suggestion for tent city, do so as you may be the one with the perfect name for our new home.

The temperature broke 100 degrees here for the first time this week, and it is going to continue to get warmer, OK it is going to get hot.

As the temperature rises, there is a direct correlation with tempers rising as well.

There are some folks who have been here or

someplace else in the AOR for more than a month now living in conditions we are unaccustomed to.

Many of our peers are not that are getting only one cold shower every four to seven days or are sleeping without air conditioning or are eating out of a pouch. They are also probably enjoying a cold beverage whenever they want one.

While you are out doing your job and if you're not having the best of days, which occasionally we all will have, if someone says or does something that rubs you the wrong way, remember we are all still professional members of the United States Air Force.



Chief Jones

In addition, we are bedding down and flying missions supporting the on-going war effort.

The commander briefs/reminds all the new personnel that we are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and as such you are responsible for your actions that entire time.

So don't let the heat get the best of you and cause you to say or do

something in the heat of the moment that is out of character for you to say or do.

Remember everyone is out there trying to get the mission accomplished and it takes every member of this team to make it happen.

We are still undermanned, and many work centers are having people wear more than one hat, working with not so great equipment and are making things happen.

Instead of blowing up at the person, put a smile on your face and walk away from the situation for a few minutes to think about what you want to say before just saying something you will later regret

Dear Krabby

Dear Krabby,

Whenever I am out and about on base, it seems an Army vehicle always gets in my way. Why can't they stay on their side of the road?

Accident Waiting to Happen

Dear Accident,

Have you noticed how big some of those Army vehicles are? The roads are narrow here, not your regulation width for roadways. They remind me of the country lanes back home. My Trailblazer must seem like a big tank coming at those horses and buggies.

After touring some of the Army vehicles, I learned that some of those tanks weigh 65 tons. Now, Dear Krabby may not be too good at math but I would certainly give something that was tall, wide and weighed 65 tons as much of the road as they wanted. My advice is to keep alert, follow the posted speed, and keep out of their way.

Dear Krabby,

Why can't soldiers and airmen follow rules about taking combat showers?

Ran Out of Water Too Many Times

Dear Ran,

There are two answers to your question. Some people don't know what a combat shower is and others just don't care. For the first group, here's the instructions: turn on the water; get wet; turn off the water; lather up; turn on the water; rinse; turn off the water; all within four minutes. A shower is not the place for shaving of faces, legs, etc. Unless you can do it within the combat shower directives. Dear Krabby has seen many soldiers and airmen shaving out of a bucket. In regards to the second group, some gentle peer pressure may shame them into complying.

But it's only a bayonet ...

By Capt. Pete Jeyaram
506th AEG staff judge advocate

For many of us, working and living in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is a once in a lifetime experience. Almost assuredly when we look back upon our professional achievements, our time at Kirkuk will stand out boldly amongst the more mundane.

It's only natural to want to capture our time here in some solid tangible way. For some, that has meant seeking out a war trophy or souvenir to bring back home. If you've recently found yourself tucking away a weapon, piece of ammo or other military article of equipment to ship back home, you should know that it could affect your career.

The fact is U.S. military and civilian personnel are prohibited from taking or retaining individual war trophies seized during military operations. Specifically, any weapon, munitions or military article of equipment obtained or acquired by any means other than official use.

The policy stems from the fact that until such designations are made by Headquarters Department of the Army for Iraq, Commander



Photos: Capt. Jill Whitesell

These items are only some of the hundreds collected during the war trophy amnesty period.

USCENTCOM does not have the authority to authorize any US personnel to take or retain War Trophies in the CENTCOM AOR.

Here's the important policy part-USCENTCOM does not intend to seek such designation since authorization to take war trophies is inconsistent with the role of U.S. troops as liberators and follow-on stability forces.

The unpopular bottom line is while weapons, ammo and military articles of equipment may be brought back to the United States as government property for display in service museums, they may never be brought back to the United States by individuals.

Any individuals attempting to remove these types of items from the AOR can be prosecuted under Article 92 of the UCMJ.

There is a complex, paper-intensive process in place whereby units can apply to have these articles shipped home to a service museum.

According to CENTCOM/JA the

number of applications expected to be granted are very limited based on the aforementioned policy. For those hearty souls willing to brave the process anyway, here are a few rules they should be aware of.

Serviceable Iraqi military equipment cannot be considered a war trophy because the intent is to return this equipment for future use during the reformation of the Iraqi National Defense Force. So if it works, we should give it back.

All requests to transport unserviceable enemy equipment out of the USCENTCOM AOR will be made through Service Component Commanders, Commander, Joint Forces Special Operations Command Central or Commander Joint Task Force 20 to USCENTCOM.

More information, including a talking paper with the details of the process along with the source material on this topic, can be found on the shared drive under the War Trophy Info folder.



Coalition progresses in Iraq, challenges remain on the path

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Each day the conditions in Iraq are improving and the life for the Iraqi population is starting to return to the "normal pre-war standard," said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In his briefing to the Pentagon press, the secretary also said the department has no objection to officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency going back to Iraq.

Rumsfeld said the coalition would find it helpful for the U.N. scientists to tell coalition forces what was in the sealed areas of the atomic energy plants. He said the decision for sending the IAEA back is up to the United Nations.

Rumsfeld stressed that there are still problems in Iraq. No nation making the transition from a tyranny to a civil society "has been immune to the difficulties and challenges of taking that path," he said.

Rumsfeld gave some examples of the "good news" coming out of Iraq. Some 65 percent of the

students in Baghdad have returned to school and a committee of Sunni and Shia Iraqis are working together to develop a new curricula for the schools.

The U.N. Children's Fund is distributing the "school in a box" to the cities of Basra, Umm Qasr and Safwahn. Each kit contains enough supplies for a school's worth of students for a year.

Passenger rail service between Basra and Baghdad has resumed and rail service between Baghdad and Mosul and Baghdad and Umm Qasr has started again, he said.

There will be a new mayor of Kirkuk sworn in Tuesday. The city of Mosul elected its first mayor and town council.

"Throughout the country civil servants are returning to work and some 900,000 Iraqi civil servants have been provided emergency payments," Rumsfeld said.



Coalition officials met with trustworthy Iraqi military leaders who provided a list of 27,000 officers, noncommissioned officers and defense ministry civilians who may be ready to assist in security activities, he said.

Residential electric customers in the north and south of Iraq have more electric service today than at any time in the last 12 years. In Basra, Iraqis are dealing with a decaying infrastructure by launching Operation Leak Stop. Iraqi plumbers move through the city repairing water pipes.

In Kirkuk 13 of 16 primary health care centers and 46 of 56 health care facilities are operational.

Coalition officials are employing more than 1,500 Iraqis to handle trash duties and to clean up overflowing sewage.

The secretary said Iraqi Media Network began broadcasting last week and that its first broadcast included reports on Mosul elections and the resumed train service to Baghdad.

Iraqi cities are seeing the first uncensored newspapers and magazines in 20 years, he said.

More than 4,500 Iraqi police are back on duty in Baghdad and other cities are rehiring trustworthy men for their police forces. "Reports of looting, curfew violations and gunfire are decreasing," Rumsfeld said.

The secretary also discussed antiquities. "There now appears to be growing evidence that the theft at the museum was most likely an inside job and only an estimated 38 items seem to be currently confirmed as missing," he said.

Bottom line: There are challenges in the country, Rumsfeld said, but the conditions have improved and in the days and weeks ahead, they will continue to get better.

Guidelines and Rules

- Carry weapon on "safe" with magazine in and NO round in the chamber.
- Pictures may be taken on base

but of nothing showing force distribution or of anything that would compromise security.

- No salute base. However, be mindful of all other customs and courtesies.

• No mixing civilian clothes and military uniform.

- Absolutely no alcohol allowed on base. Place all alcohol, with your name on it, in the amnesty box on the rose garden patio.

Commonly used phone numbers

Public Affairs - 460-0131
Fire Department - 460-0030
Command Post - 460-0077
CC Exec. - 460-0092
CC Support Section - 460-0099
CE Customer Service 460-0021
Command Chief - 460-0052
PERSCO - 460-0122
First Sergeant - 460-0016
COMM Help Desk - 460-0000
EOD - 460-0903
Weather - 460-0061
Lodging - 460-0123

Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. J.F. Natcher

506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Homestation: Garland, Texas Air National Guard

Number of days in AOR: 81

Family: Wife, Amy; daughters Aunna and Sharron; son Bergin

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th AEG?

By making things happen that are essential to our overall mission without being told what needs to be done.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience? Seeing the faces of airmen I work with when



they realize they are able to apply what they have learned in the past, yet have never been able to do.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Being able to work nothing into something.

What's Your Sign?

Aries - This is not your week for making new friends. Reserve comments unless directly asked and never, ever look an Army-guy in the eye.

Taurus - Just when things appear to get no worse, be prepared to buy a new Mag-Lite. After all, reaching into that choked-full, cut-off barrel is simply not worth it.

Gemini - Don't feel you must avoid the First Sergeant. Rest assured soon he'll be disseminat-

ing good news like... "the BX is opening" or "the Beer Tent will open soon" or "the Chow Hall is now open" ... never mind.

Cancer - Yes your AFSC is no longer on the "Stop Loss" list but how do you plan to get out of the AOR?

Leo - Now is a time for sharing. That means give up all those cases of bottled water you've been hoarding under your cot.

Virgo - Though distant and faint, those aren't really voices in your head. In fact, pull your

head out because it's your NCOIC trying to get you to do some work.

Libra - That peculiar smell persists because your laundry bag is under the wrong end of your cot.

Scorpio - You have never slept so well on a C-130 pallet before nor did you realize that a care package filled with mom's cookies would not withstand a grown man's weight.

Capricorn - Release all anger and wicked thoughts from your mind. Just leave the stuff in the

"Amnesty Box."

Aquarius - Your week will begin with a pleasant start. During your mundane routine, your eyes will land on the most beautiful person who will steal your heart. Unfortunately, the UCMJ strictly forbids fraternization.

Pisces - Don't be afraid to express yourself. Now is the time to distance yourself from the crowd, only find a better way than urinating in the shower. *(Contributed by a member of the 506th ECS)*